

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) Process for the synthesis of isobutyl methyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(2-nitrophenyl)-3,5-pyridine dicarboxylate (Nisoldipine) based on the reaction of isobutyl 2-(2-nitrobenzylidene)acetoacetate with methyl 3-aminocrotonate, added to the reaction mixture at a time or portionwise, in non-polar solvent, to give crude Nisoldipine.
2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic or cycloaliphatic solvents.
3. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of cyclohexane and/or n-hexane.
4. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction of isobutyl 2-(2-nitrobenzylidene)acetoacetate and methyl 3-aminocrotonate is carried out in the presence of 4-dimethylaminopyridine.
5. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, downstream of the reaction of isobutyl 2-(2-nitrobenzylidene)acetoacetate with methyl 3-aminocrotonate in a non-polar solvent to give crude Nisoldipine, said Nisoldipine is purified by crystallisation from a water/water soluble solvent mixture to give a pure Nisoldipine final product.

6. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the water/water soluble solvent mixture is acetone/water.

Claims 7-14 (Canceled)